

# Indiana House of Representatives

## News and Information

*Media Office*

*Democratic Caucus*

*John Schorg, Director*

*Statehouse, Room 157*

*Indianapolis, Indiana 46204*

*1-800-382-9842 or 1-317-232-9621*

*Fax Number: 1-317-232-9792*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**May 12, 2005**

### **GOODIN: STATE BUDGET HARMS CHILDREN, SENIORS, TAXPAYERS**

INDIANAPOLIS – Residents across the 66<sup>th</sup> House District will see little or no relief from the new biennial state budget passed by the Republican-controlled Legislature, according to State Rep. Terry Goodin (D-Crothersville).

"With the 2005 legislative session complete, Republicans are crowing that they have achieved great successes, but they have not told you about the terrible price their handiwork on the new state budget will exact on the lives of Hoosiers of all ages," Goodin said. "Since they gave Democrats no chance to provide input in the budget process, I am willing to give them all the credit for what that budget does: increases property taxes for homeowners, cuts education funding and deprives area seniors of the in-home health care services they need.

"The destruction that will be caused by this budget will be lasting and severe," he added. "This budget is one that I did not support and I will not defend."

While supporters claim that the budget increases funding for area schools, Goodin said what they aren't telling you is that the increases are coming primarily from local property taxes rather than direct state support.

"In order to provide any funding increases for area schools, our fiscal experts estimate local property taxes will have to grow by nearly \$12 million," Goodin said. "These local increases come because the Republican leadership refused to provide a minimum guarantee of state support. If school funding goes up, it is because local taxpayers are footing the bill rather than the state. A minimum guarantee would have helped schools receive critical funding."

Goodin said local property taxes also will rise because the budget caps the amount that can be received through Property Tax Replacement Credits (PTRC), the program that brought tax relief to property owners.

"Don't blame your local government officials or school boards when you see an increase in your property taxes," Goodin said. "Those increases are a direct result of the new state budget."

"This budget hurts children because the funding levels will force school officials to cut programs and personnel, while increasing property taxes," he noted. "This budget hurts property taxpayers because it represents a complete reversal from the bipartisan efforts made in recent sessions to reduce the influence of property taxes as a means to fund critical local services. This budget raises property taxes, a fact that even its supporters admit."

Another vital state program that will be hampered by the budget is CHOICE, which provides home health care services for the elderly and disabled.

"Since there are no increases in funding, more than 1,800 people in this area will have to remain on a waiting list to get the in home care they deserve," Goodin said. "We have been asking our seniors to bear a tremendous burden, and I do not think we should be asking them to wait any longer to have medical care in their homes."

"Their problem typifies what is wrong with this budget," he added. "It will cause real pain for Hoosiers of all ages, It is being balanced on the backs of our children and Hoosier property taxpayers. This budget is so bad that I think it should carry a black box label stating, 'Warning: This Budget Will Cause Huge Property Tax Increases.'"

---30---

**This news release can be accessed on the Internet at [www.IN.gov/H66](http://www.IN.gov/H66)**